

REMARKS

This timely filed Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement and requested selection of one of the three (3) species as detailed below:

Species I: Figure 2 is drawn to an acoustic combination embodiment of the invention in the form of a standard integrated circuit.

Species II: Figure 5A is drawn to another acoustic combination embodiment in the form a hybrid microphone-amplifier packaging scheme.

Species III: Figure 6 is drawn to another acoustic combination embodiment in the form of a printed circuit board array.

In this Reply, Applicants hereby elect Species III comprising claims 48-70 and have cancelled claims 1-47, without prejudice. The election is made with traverse as described below. Claims 48 and 49 have been amended. No new matter has been added

Claim 1 is a genus claim drawn to a microphone and amplifier coupled to one another and formed on an integrated circuit (hybrid package called combination in claim 1). This is what is shown in Fig. 2 that is identified by the Examiner as Species I. The microphone and interface circuitry make up the hybrid package, which is a SINGLE CHANNEL of a microphone ARRAY. The asserted Species III being the PCB array is again a species of claim 1 because the ARRAY is comprised of a plurality of hybrid packages laid out on a PCB board.

Based on the above election, Applicants request removal of the restriction requirement and substantive examination of claims 48-70 as well as Species 1 claims 1-35 based on the reasons for

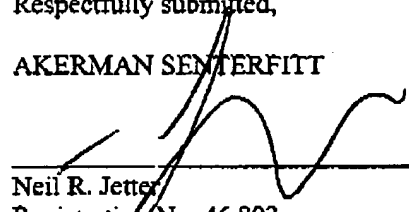
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traversal described above. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that the above restriction election is incomplete or improper in any way, or if a telephonic interview will expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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